REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

A. Status of the Claims and Explanation of Amendments

Claims 1, 3, 5-8 are pending. By this paper, claims 2 and 4 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1, 3 and 6-8 are amended. Claim 1 is amended to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein said correction unit, based on the first pixel defect information of the first driving scheme from the plurality of driving schemes, generates the second pixel defect information for the second driving scheme, and stores the second pixel defect information in said pixel defect information storage unit" and "wherein said second driving scheme drives to read the second number of pixels of signal from the image sensing device, which the second number is smaller than the first number of pixel of signal read from the image sensing device by the first driving scheme." Support for this amendment may be found, for example at pages 17 and 18 of Applicant's Original Specification. Claims 3, 5 and 6-8 have been amended to be consistent with claim 1.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for allegedly claiming non-statutory subject matter. Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for suggesting how to overcome the rejection. Claim 8 has been amended accordingly.

As to the merits, the office action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,9170,130 to Kidono et al ("Kidono").

B. Claims 1-8 are Patentably Distinct from Kidono

The rejections of claims 1-8 are respectfully traversed. As explained more fully below, the requirements for such rejections are not met. In particular, Kidono does not teach, disclose or suggest "wherein said correction unit, based on the first pixel defect information of the first driving scheme from the plurality of driving schemes, generates the second pixel defect information for the second driving scheme, and stores the second pixel defect information in said pixel defect information storage unit" of Applicant's claim 1.

Applicant's claim 1 as amended recites:

> An image sensing apparatus having an image sensing device, comprising:
>
> a driving unit adapted to drive the image sensing device by a plurality of driving schemes;
>
> a pixel defect information torage unit adapted to store pixel defect information as information about a pixel defect in the image sensing device in correspondence with each driving scheme; and
>
> a correction unit adapted to correct the pixel defect by referring to the pixel defect information in said pixel defect information storage unit in accordance with the driving scheme with which said driving unit drives the image sensing device,
>
> wherein said correction unit, based on the first pixel defect information of the first driving scheme from the plurality of driving schemes, generates the second pixel defect information for the second driving scheme, and stores the second pixel defect information in said pixel defect information storage unit, and
>
> wherein said second driving scheme drives to read the second number of pixels of signal from the image sensing device, which the second number is smaller than the first number of pixel of signal read

> from the image sensing device by the first driving scheme. .

A feature of the claimed invention is to have at least two driving schemes, i.e.:

> 1) the first driving scheme generates the first number of pixels (the first pixel defect information) from the image sensing device; and
>
> 2) the second driving scheme generates the second number of pixels (the second pixel defect information) from the image sensing device, where the second number is smaller than the first number,

Another feature is to generate the second pixel defect information based on the first defect information and to store it in a memory. [Applicant's Original Specification at pages 17-18]. That is, according to the claimed invention, pixel defect information (first pixel defect information) detected once for one driving scheme can be used to generate the other pixel defect information corresponding to the other driving scheme. Accordingly, the pixel defect information can be efficiently and effectively stored in the memory.

Kidono is directed toward an image correction mechanism. Applicant maintains that Kidono's correction mechanism is fundamentally different than Applicant's. [7/2/07 Amendment at pg. 4]. The office action stated that Kidono discloses a "driving means (6) for driving the image sensing device by a plurality of driving schemes (col.4, lines 7-31)." [10/9/07 Office Action at pg. 3]. Although the cited passage from Kidono does disclose reading pixels for a correction reference signal and multiple drives, Applicant fails to see an interaction between the defect information of the various drive schemes. It is believed Kidono does not teach or suggest the feature of the claimed device, which generates the second defect information for the second driving scheme based on the first defect information. Therefore, the claimed device is not anticipated by Kidono.

Accordingly, as Applicant cannot find "wherein said correction unit, based on the first pixel defect information of the first driving scheme from the plurality of driving schemes, generates the second pixel defect information for the second driving scheme, and stores the second pixel defect information in said pixel defect information storage unit" of claim 1 in Kidono, at least independent claims 1 and its dependent claims 2-5 are respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. For at least similar reasons, independent claims 6-8 also are respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the above-stated reasons, this application is respectfully asserted to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable examination on the merits is requested. In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate the examination of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE ANY ADDITIONAL FEES WHICH MAY BE REQUIRED FOR THE TIMELY CONSIDERATION OF THIS AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 AND 1.17, OR CREDIT ANY OVERPAYMENT TO DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 13-4500, ORDER NO. 1232-5277.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: January 9, 2008

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